

By Staff Reports

Print Page

March 14, 2016 5:20PM

Inmates begin clean up of massive illegal dump in Apple Valley

APPLE VALLEY — San Bernardino County inmate workers have started clean up on a 66-acre illegal dump site near Interstate 15 and Dale Evans Parkway that has “blighted unincorporated Apple Valley for years,” according to 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood.

The clean up of piles of roofing tiles, concrete, mounds of tires and several boats began last week and is part of an initiative Lovingood proposed in 2015 to use inmate workers to clean up trash and illegal dump sites throughout the High Desert.

Inmate crews collected 94.5 tons of trash and 1,980 tires in the 1st District between August and December, and Lovingood said San Bernardino County Code Enforcement is looking to install video cameras to identify illegal dumpers once the site is cleaned up.

The roofing material and concrete from the site will be recycled, and the tires will be used as fuel at a local cement plant, Lovingood’s office said in a statement.

“My colleagues on the board of supervisors and I have allocated funds to get this site cleaned up,” Lovingood said. “We’re saving taxpayer dollars by using inmate workers, and we’re saving more by recycling and reducing the amount of debris that goes into the landfill.”

The county spends hundreds of thousands of dollars to clean up illegal dumping and hazardous waste, and holds regular community cleanup and recycling events, according to Lovingood.

In response to the cleanup, Apple Valley Mayor Bard Stanton said illegal dumps are “offensive to everyone.”

“We all appreciate the county’s efforts in addressing this blighted area near the north entrance to our town,” she said.

Due to the size of the site, the San Bernardino County Fire Department’s Inmate Hand Crew is assisting with the project that’s being overseen by Code Enforcement.

In addition, the fire department’s Heavy Equipment Program has provided three skid steers, two dump trucks, one front-end loader and a bulldozer.

The operation is expected to take four to five weeks, according to Lovingood.

Amid the cleanup, Lovingood encouraged residents to get involved by reporting illegal dumping to local law enforcement or Code Enforcement.

A smartphone app that allows residents to report illegal dumping and graffiti in unincorporated areas is available through Code Enforcement for Android and iOS platform devices — such as the iPhone — by searching “SB Code.”

For information on disposal of household hazardous waste such as poisons, paints, fertilizers, used motor oil, e-waste and more, and information on transportation limits in San Bernardino County, visit www.sbcfire.org/hazmat/hhw.aspx or call 800-645-9228.



San Bernardino County Fire Department's Inmate Hand Crew separates trash from concrete as they helped clean up a large illegal dump in Apple Valley on Monday. James Quigg, Daily Press

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160314/NEWS/160319884>

Print Page

By [Shea Johnson](#)[Print Page](#)

March 14, 2016 8:58AM

Settlement terms reached in Dan'te Parker suits

SAN BERNARDINO — The terms of a settlement agreed upon sometime after Feb. 9 could be approved Tuesday in three civil cases brought against the county and law enforcement officials by family members of Dan'te Parker, the former Daily Press pressman who died in sheriff's custody after being stunned with a Taser as many as 12 times in August 2014.

Attorneys for Parker's family members jointly engaged with the defendants' lawyers in mediation Feb. 9, and while they "were not far from an agreement" at that time, the parties ultimately came to terms on the settlement sometime afterward, federal court records show.

Attorneys for San Bernardino County, Sheriff John McMahon, nine deputies and a sergeant had countered the family members' closing settlement demand delivered at mediation and the family later reduced the demand in response, according to a filing Friday in Riverside by the defendants' attorneys.

"At this time, the defendants will appear before the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2016, or soon thereafter, to seek approval of a settlement," the filing said. "Counsel will file an updated status report with the Court should any settlement be agreed upon or should the matter remain set for trial."

A special closed session of the Supervisors has been scheduled for Tuesday. The agenda lists the three cases that were filed separately by Parker's wife and children, his father, and his mother.

An expected trial date for June 28 will be vacated if Supervisors indeed sign off on the settlement, a deal that had appeared to grow in likelihood since at least December. The terms agreed upon by attorneys were not immediately known.

At the crux of the three lawsuits, the common nucleus alleges that sheriff's deputies used unnecessary force on the father of five and delayed giving him medical attention.

Parker, 36, died not long after being taken into custody as a residential burglary suspect on Aug. 12, 2014. He was combative with deputies and under the influence of phencyclidine (PCP), according to authorities and a coroner's report.

The District Attorney's office later concluded that deputies were justified in their use of force, outlining in a report the details of the altercation gleaned from interviews with 15 deputies or witnesses.

Parker was suspected of attempting to break into a home in the 12400 block of Luna Road in Victorville as deputies responded to the scene. At least four deputies were involved in the subsequent scrum, with some telling the DA's office that Parker didn't appear to be in the right frame of mind as they recalled his "profuse sweating, dilated eyes and rapid pulse."

He was handcuffed, placed in a patrol car and then medical aid was requested. By the time he arrived at the hospital, his temperature hovered around 106 degrees. He went into cardiac arrest and died shortly thereafter.

The autopsy report ruled his death accidental, citing PCP intoxication as the cause of death with contributing factors listed as hypertensive cardiovascular disease, obesity and the physical confrontation with deputies.

But attorneys representing Parker's family have argued that deputies should not only have realized his medical distress upon making contact, but they should have also acted appropriately in dealing with the emergency — not stunned him repeatedly.

Parker's wife and children, his father and his mother have sought damages for emotional and monetary loss.

Meanwhile, Parker's death sparked calls for reform and justice, including from ACLU SoCal, which sued the Sheriff's Department, saying it held back requested documents related to policies and practices on Taser use. The alleged withholding then impaired the ACLU's ability to properly evaluate whether the department had taken seriously a 2012 county Grand Jury's concerns over its Taser use.

A hearing in the ACLU lawsuit is set for July 15, county court records show.

The death of Parker, who was African American, also thrust his name into the intense national debate on perceived police brutality that had been revved up three days before by the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

Shea Johnson may be reached at 760-955-5368 or SJohnson@VVDailyPress.com. Follow him on Twitter at @DP_Shea.



A settlement could be approved Tuesday in three civil cases brought against the county by different family members of Dante Parker, the former Daily Press employee who died in sheriff's custody after being stunned with a Taser as many as 12 times in August 2014. File photo, Daily Press



MISTAKES: Study finds 'flawed' convictions led to millions in settlements

By [BRIAN ROKOS](#)

2016-03-11 17:06:54



Between 1989 and 2012, Riverside and San Bernardino counties paid a combined \$10,653,000 in settlements and legal fees in 193 cases where defendants claimed they were wrongfully arrested or prosecuted.

The cases represent some of the almost 700 “flawed convictions” that cost California taxpayers a total of \$282 million in trials, legal settlements, incarceration and other expenses between 1989 and 2012, according a study released this month by the UC Berkeley School of Law.

The study, “Criminal Injustice,” highlights the costs to taxpayers as a result of mistakes in California’s criminal justice system. The report looked at 692 cases in which a defendant’s felony conviction was overturned and

the charges later dismissed or the defendant was acquitted on retrial.

Those individuals wrongfully served a combined total of 2,186 years in custody, the study found.

San Bernardino County paid \$5,325,000 to settle 126 cases, the study said. Riverside County paid \$5,328,000 to settle 67 cases. The city of San Bernardino paid \$3,079,000 to settle 15 cases. The city of Riverside did not respond to the researchers’ request for information.

One of the Riverside County cases involved judicial misconduct and resulted in a man being sentenced to 12 years in prison.

In 2006, a woman told officers that her bicycle had been stolen; officers found the bicycle sitting on the lawn of a nearby house where two men, including Carl Lee Mallett, were sitting in a car, the UC Berkeley study said. The woman identified Mallett as the bicycle thief from at least 60 feet away with a flashlight shining on him.

Later, she was shown a picture of Mallett and said he did not look like the thief. Then, she denied that he was the thief. At trial she testified that she had wrongly identified Mallett because the lighting was poor and she was far away; she also stated that it was her ex-boyfriend who had stolen the bike and that she was afraid of him because he had threatened to kill her.

Jurors were unable to reach a decision, but they returned to deliberations after the judge said: “A lot of time and effort and money has been put into trying this case. ... You’ve got to understand that it would be a real shame for the County of Riverside and you to pay for another trial just because you did not put in enough effort.”

The jurors then indicated that they would like more time, but because of scheduling difficulties, the judge excused two jurors and inserted two alternates. Only 15 minutes after the two alternates were sworn, the jury found Mallett guilty of second-degree burglary. The judge sentenced him to 12 years in prison.

In 2009, an appellate court reversed the conviction, saying that the judge had pressured a deadlocked jury into reaching a verdict. The District Attorney’s Office refiled the charges but offered Mallett a plea deal that would cover the time served, four years. Mallett accepted, pleading guilty to grand theft.

In November 2014, when voters passed Prop. 47, the grand theft charge was eligible to be reclassified from a felony to a misdemeanor because the value of the bicycle was less than \$950. On March 4, 2016, Judge Becky L. Dugan reduced the conviction to a misdemeanor.

WITHHOLDING EVIDENCE COSTLY

The city of Los Angeles paid the highest cost, \$93.2 million for 370 cases; followed by Oakland, which paid \$49.4 million for 364 cases.

“We should be aiming for zero errors in our criminal justice system,” Rebecca Silbert, the study’s co-author, said in a statement. “The costs are too high to ignore.”

Judicial mistakes, such as jury misconduct or sentencing issues, were the most common errors, impacting 22 percent of all cases. However, prosecutorial misconduct was the most expensive error, costing \$53 million in appeals, settlements and other expenses, with an average cost of \$617,513 per error, the study found.

Of the 86 errors in the prosecutorial misconduct category, more than half were so-called Brady violations, where prosecutors failed to turn over exculpatory evidence to defense attorneys, as required by law. Brady violations accounted for \$44 million of the total cost, according to the report.

Staff writers Kelly Puente and Ian Wheeler contributed to this report.

Contact the writer: brokos@pe.com or 951-368-9569

© Copyright 2016 Freedom Communications. All Rights Reserved.
[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Site Map](#)

LOCAL / CALIFORNIA

Latest storms are filling reservoirs and bringing hopes of a 'March miracle'



Lake Shasta's water level has been rising after a series of storms. After a wet weekend in Northern California, it was above its average for this time of year. (Nathan Solis / Associated Press)



By **Joseph Serna** · Contact Reporter

MARCH 15, 2016, 4:00 AM

Ever since a series of winter storms began dumping rain and snow in Northern California last year, officials have been looking for tangible signs that all those storms were making a dent in the state's four-year drought.

This week delivered some pretty powerful evidence.

The latest storms over the weekend pushed California's biggest reservoir past its historical average for mid-March and put the second-largest one at its historical average, officials said.

Water and Power is The Times' guide to the drought. Sign up to get the free newsletter

>>

The rising reservoirs, along with growing snowpack in the Sierra Nevada, are important because both are key sources of water for California.

The snowpack now stands at 92% of normal statewide, with the northern area now at 102% of normal.

"It's definitely a step in the right direction, but it's not a panacea. We're not saved," said Shane Hunt, a spokesman with the federal Bureau of Reclamation, which oversees Lake Shasta, the state's largest reservoir. "We dug a pretty big hole in a lot of spots."

Together the Lake Shasta and Lake Oroville reservoirs have a capacity of more than 8 million acre-feet of water. After a wet weekend in Northern California, Lake Shasta was above its average for this time of year, and by 4 p.m. Monday Lake Oroville had surpassed its historical average, said Department of Water Resources spokesman Doug Carlson.

Some people have referred to the recent storms that have dumped rain and snow on the Sierra Nevada as the "March Miracle."

"It's happened a little quicker than I personally thought," Carlson said. "It would appear the [seasonal storms] have really achieved what they historically do, which is deliver a lot of rainfall to the mountains."

Neither reservoir has reached its historical average in nearly three years, data show.

"I don't know if people here will be dancing in their cubicles when [Orville] hits the historic average, but it will be the first time it's done that for the duration of [the drought](#). That is reason to be joyous," Carlson said.

[Other reservoirs across the state](#) are also doing well. Once-anemic Lake Folsom is now at 116% of historical average for the date and at 69% of total capacity.

According to the [National Weather Service](#), it rained nearly a foot in El Dorado County and more than 9 inches in Shasta County between Friday and Monday mornings. Since March 1, the Shasta reservoir has received more than 16 inches.

On March 6, Lake Oroville saw its biggest single-day rise in 12 years, the Department of Water Resources reported.

If the soggy month continues, both reservoirs could fill to the brim by April, officials say. Neither reservoir has been full since about the beginning of the drought, officials said.

The Shasta reservoir would need an additional 1 million acre-feet of rain to reach its capacity.

"It's possible that it could fill if the wet pattern continues.... It's on track to at least get to average storage" for that time of year, Hunt said.

After four years of drought, even hitting a 15-year historical average for a California reservoir is a sign of progress, experts say.

joseph.serna@latimes.com

Twitter: @JosephSerna

ALSO

[L.A. plans to fix sidewalks, then hand off responsibility for future repairs](#)

[Beverly Hills put a spotlight on its celebrity water wasters -- and it worked](#)

[Developer should lose building permits over illegally chopped trees, L.A. officials say](#)

Copyright © 2016, Los Angeles Times

This article is related to: [California Drought](#), [National Weather Service](#)

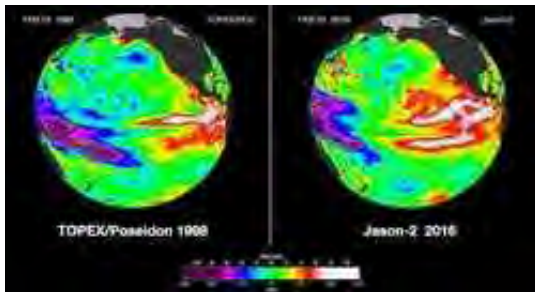
San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Why it is likely too late for El Nino to save Southern California from drought

Snowfall in Northern California is fueling future water supplies; Washington and Oregon helped

By Steve Scauzillo, San Gabriel Valley Tribune

Monday, March 14, 2016



The tale of El Niño 2016 reads like two different stories.

In Northern California, the weather phenomenon has delivered above normal rain and snow this winter. Not so in Southern California, where rainfall is only half of normal for downtown Los Angeles.

Why the discrepancy? Climatologists have various theories but they are just that, theories. More importantly, time is running out on restoring Southern California to above-drought rainfall levels, leading to a disappointing end to what many predicted would be a very rainy winter that would make a dent in the driest four years in state history.

“Once you get past April 1, the amount of rain we get on average decreases remarkably,” said Ken Clark, expert meteorologist with AccuWeather.com in Southern California. “We are basically out of time to get back to normal (precipitation), that is, unless something really weird happens.”

While Clark came close to predicting a fifth drought year for Southern California; others are saying not so fast.

“Don’t throw El Niño under the bus until the end of April,” said Bill Patzert, climatologist with NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in La Cañada Flintridge.

In the winter of 1982-1983, El Niño started late, producing the heaviest rains in March and April. While Patzert is getting heat for calling the 2015-2016 version a “Godzilla El Niño” since summer, he said on Monday it has performed as a late-bloomer like its predecessor in 1983, leaving a sliver of hope for tardy rains in March and April.

Patzert had predicted the brunt of El Niño would fall in February. Yet, Southern California turned warm and dry. While rains hit Southern California earlier this month and last weekend, the rainfall amounted to only 1.56 inches in downtown Los Angeles, the benchmark for rainfall totals in the region. Since Oct. 1, only 6.54 inches of rain fell, about 53 percent of normal, Clark said. On Monday, the ministorm dropped a scant 0.03 inches in downtown.

It would have to rain 6 more inches this winter just for Southern California to get back to normal, he said.

“That is just not going to happen,” Clark added.

Starting Tuesday, a high-pressure ridge will chase away any hint of rain leaving sunny skies through

Sunday. Temperatures will reach 82 degrees in Los Angeles on Wednesday, according to the National Weather Service Oxnard/Los Angeles office.

“The ridge of high pressure is building into the West Coast,” NWS meteorologist David Sweet said. “That will assure the sunny, drier warmer weather.”

This El Niño did not behave like most large El Niños. It also got pushed around by a high-pressure ridge that shoved the jet stream to the north, sending what would have been local storms into Northern California, Oregon and Washington.

In six months, Patzert said, Oregon and Washington went from severe drought to near normal.

“Seattle and Portland stole our rain,” he said.

This El Niño may have disappointed locally, but up north, it’s a hit. Since Oct. 1, precipitation at stations in Northern Sierra, Southern Sierra and the Tulare basin reached 131 percent of average, 115 percent and 109 percent, respectively, according to the state Department of Water Resources.

The snowpack averaged 92 percent of normal in the three combined regions of the Sierra as of Monday. Because Southern California gets two-thirds of its water from the Colorado River and Northern California, the newly layered snowpack will aid Los Angeles and other cities that buy imported water come late spring and summer. The DWR has increased allocations from zero percent last year to 30 percent.

“In terms of water management ... that is good news,” Patzert said. “For local water managers, it’s disappointing.”

As to why the majority of Pacific storms tracked north? Clark said other factors are at play, namely ocean winds and sea surface temperatures.

Patzert called the creation of high-pressure ridges — like the one bringing dry weather this week — a spoiler. Yet, even a rainy year would not return reservoirs and groundwater basins to pre-drought levels. That will take four to five years of above average rainfall.

Clark said the current ridge will break up by Sunday, leaving the door ajar for storms to enter.

“We are not done with rain,” he said. “I almost guarantee there will be more rain in March.”

How much more? No one knows.

“Don’t throw in the towel yet,” Patzert said.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/environment-and-nature/20160314/why-it-is-likely-too-late-for-el-nino-to-save-southern-california-from-drought>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)



MARIJUANA: Polls show support growing to legalize pot

By [BROOKE EDWARDS STAGGS](#)

2016-03-12 22:31:39



There are increasing signs that 2016 might just be the year the largest state in the nation legalizes recreational marijuana.

Polls have shown that up to 60 percent of California's likely voters in the November presidential contest support legal pot. And due in part to hefty financial backing from a Silicon Valley billionaire, the leading pro-marijuana measure – the Adult Use of Marijuana Act – is off to one of the strongest starts among dozens of proposed initiatives on different topics being pitched for the Nov. 8 ballot.

“We believe that AUMA has a very strong chance of passing in 2016,” said Chris Beals, chief strategy officer for Weedmaps, which has donated \$500,000 to the campaign. “While there is still much work to be done to

further educate voters on the issue, support for ending prohibition is strong in California.”

Of course, much could change between now and the November election. Law enforcement and other groups that helped defeat a marijuana legalization measure in 2010 are just gearing up efforts to oppose AUMA. Plus there's continuing discord among advocates over a glut of legalization proposals and which would best serve residents without allowing big corporations to dominate a pot industry that's poised to grow substantially.

Still, AUMA has landed a broad coalition of mainstream supporters, including gubernatorial candidate Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, the California Medical Association and a slew of environmental groups.

Story continues below. Mobile users, take a poll on the legalization of pot [here](#).

The campaign for the measure already has raised \$2.25 million, and it gathered a quarter of the 365,880 signatures needed by April 26 in just 29 days.

Momentum for legalization is building, too, with recreational use now permitted in Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Washington, D.C. And the independent Legislative Analyst's Office is predicting that annual new tax revenue under AUMA could reach up to \$1 billion.

"I think everyone views California as the Super Bowl of this movement," said Jason Kinney, spokesman for the initiative's campaign. "Winning here would have an impact on the rest of the country."

ANOTHER PROP. 19?

California was the first state to vote on legalizing marijuana, with Proposition 19 in 1972. That time, 66.5 percent of voters said no.

California also led the way in legalizing medical marijuana in 1996. It took 38 years for recreational use to make it back on the ballot in the form of a second Prop. 19 initiative in 2010.

A Public Policy Institute of California poll in September of that year found that 52 percent of Californians supported the second measure. That dropped to just 46.5 percent in favor of legalization by the time the vote was counted in November.

Analysts point to many causes for the fall-off, including a strong pushback against state legalization prior to the vote by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, who vowed to continue vigorously enforcing federal laws against pot sales.

In recent years, President Barack Obama's administration largely has let states that have voted to legalize adult pot use follow through with their own regulations and enforcement.

"Voters can look at Colorado and see that the sky didn't fall," said Lynne Lyman, California director for the Drug Policy Alliance, which is supporting the AUMA campaign. "I think that instills a lot of confidence."

In 2010, then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger also slashed penalties for marijuana possession, reducing momentum for legalization shortly before the balloting.

Since Schwarzenegger's action, legalization advocates note there has been little improvement in the disproportionate effects criminalization of pot has had on California's growing minority population. Overall felony arrests on marijuana charges have held steady but remain sharply skewed to young men of color, Lyman said.

"No matter how we change or soften our drug laws, we are incapable of applying them equally," Lyman said. "Decriminalization did not work for California."

The failed 2010 initiative also contained what Nate Bradley, executive director of the California Cannabis Industry Association, called the "poison pill." That was a clause prohibiting employers from disciplining workers for marijuana use, except in cases where their performance was impaired. That sparked opposition from the California Chamber of Commerce and other influential business groups.

AUMA leaves discipline policies for workers up to employers.

The 2010 Prop. 19 may have brought in too little money too late, with a large portion of the \$4 million proponents raised arriving in the final weeks before the election.

By contrast, AUMA has brought in more than half that amount with eight months to go. Along with money from Weedmaps and Lyman's group, state records show that billionaire Napster co-founder Sean Parker has given \$1 million to the campaign and an additional \$250,000 to an independent group supporting it.

Backers of legalization also note that the 2010 vote took place in a midterm election, when there tend to be fewer young voters.

This year, the vote coincides with a presidential election that has generated a surge of interest among millennials. A 2015 statewide poll by PPIC of likely millennial voters, ages 18-34, showed 62 percent in favor of legalization, and a February survey by Probolsky Research in Newport Beach puts millennial support at nearly 80 percent.

THE OTHER GUYS

One potential hurdle from 2010 persists, proponents acknowledge: Divisions persevere among legal pot supporters.

In all, 19 legalization initiatives initially were proposed for the ballot, and 13 have been cleared to gather signatures.

"I would like to see the people in the cannabis community get together and make one initiative," said Barbara Ayala, the president of Senior OC NORML who helped gather signatures for the 2010 vote. "I think that's the only way it's going to pass."

Five of the proposed legalization initiatives already have been withdrawn or failed. Several more have been abandoned by their proponents.

One of those, the so-called ReformCA measure, originally was backed by Alice Huffman, president of the California NAACP, and Dale Sky Jones, a former spokeswoman for the 2010 initiative campaign. Both women now support AUMA.

Another activist, Samuel Clauder, said he also has abandoned two initiatives he was sponsoring. Instead, the former Orange County resident hopes to legalize cannabis by working with the Legislature.

A handful of other competing proposals still are being promoted by proponents critical of AUMA.

"We're still at the table," said John Lee of San Jose, who is tied to six legalization ballot measures cleared to gather signatures.

Lee says his group, Americans for Policy Reform, has included initiative provisions requested by current cannabis business owners who believe AUMA favors big corporations and would impose onerous taxes on retailers and growers.

The main obstacle to getting other initiatives on the ballot, Lee said, is money.

After AUMA, the next largest pot of funding for a marijuana initiative is Clauder's now-abandoned California Cannabis Legalization Act of 2016. That campaign has \$10,000 – all from Clauder.

"If you don't have probably at least \$1 million, you're never going to qualify for the ballot unless you have the most amazing grass-roots effort ever," said Bob Stern, who co-founded the Center for Governmental Studies and helped author the book "Democracy by Initiative." On the other hand, Stern said, "Any initiative that has \$3

million will almost always qualify.”

Still, Stern added, only around a third of initiatives that make it to the ballot become law.

Lobbyist John Lovell, who fought legalization in 2010, is leading a recently launched AUMA opposition campaign that has collected \$25,000 from law enforcement and hospital groups, according to state records.

“However one feels philosophically about the legalization of marijuana, I think there are so many obvious flaws in this ballot measure that voters will reject it,” he said.

Critics also cite a February study from UC San Francisco’s Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education. It argues that new state tax revenue from a legalized pot industry might not fully offset the public health costs of increased marijuana use, including an increase in impaired driving and potential cardiovascular problems. As with some of the effects of tobacco, the study said taxpayers then would be required to make up the difference.

Adding to the political mix, one proposed ballot measure that would block recreational pot use while imposing greater restrictions on medical marijuana use also has been cleared to gather signatures by state election officials.

WHAT IF IT PASSES?

If AUMA is approved, Californians 21 and older would be permitted to possess up to an ounce of marijuana, up to 8 grams of concentrated cannabis and up to six plants.

It would prohibit driving while impaired, giving cannabis to minors or consuming it in public. And – building on the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act signed into law in October – it includes provisions for licensing, testing, labeling, advertising and local control over marijuana businesses.

The 62-page act also establishes a 15 percent sales tax (which would not apply to medical marijuana patients) plus a tax by weight for growers.

The Legislative Analyst’s Office anticipates that those tax revenues could top \$1 billion annually and the state would save as much as \$100 million a year on marijuana enforcement.

Parker’s initiative dedicates the new revenues to research, law enforcement, education and environmental cleanup.

“While AUMA isn’t perfect,” said Beals, of Weedmaps, “it is the product of all the stakeholders and it will enable the industry to operate in an open, legal market that benefits patients and business owners.”

Contact the writer: 714-796-7963 or bstaggs@ocregister.com

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Physician shortages continue to plague Inland Empire

By Jim Steinberg, The Sun

Monday, March 14, 2016

The two-county San Bernardino-Riverside area continues to lack an adequate safety net for uninsured residents and faces a serious doctor shortage, especially in primary care and psychiatry, says a report released Monday.

The Inland Empire's supply of physicians is far below state levels, at 120 per 100,000 compared to the state average of 194 per 100,000, according to the report commissioned by the California Health Care Foundation.

The physician supply is the lowest among the six regions the [California Health Care Foundation](#) studies.

And the physician shortage in Riverside/San Bernardino is expected to worsen as physicians retire faster than younger physicians can replace them, the report says.

But area health leaders said they are responding to the challenge and making inroads.

At Arrowhead Regional Medical School in Colton, the San Bernardino county hospital, management has expanded the family medicine residency program and created a new internal medicine residency program to address the primary care shortage, said Dr. Dev GnanaDev, ARMC's chief of surgery.

Doctors from ARMC are among those creating a [new medical school in Colton, California University of Science and Medicine](#), which expects to enroll its first class in fall 2017, said GnanaDev, who also serves as the college's president.

The idea of the college is to train area residents and have them stay in the area, GnanaDev said.

Dr. Richard Hart, president of Loma Linda University Health, said, "It is not so much lack of doctors but that existing doctors don't want to take Medi-Cal coverage patients or the uninsured."

But the [downtown campus of Loma Linda University Health, scheduled to be complete in July](#), will be able to take advantage of federal provisions as a federally qualified health center, to get higher reimbursements for treatment of both Medi-Cal and the uninsured.

The Loma Linda health system is looking to expand to more to remote areas of the region.

A challenge in addressing the needs of the Inland Empire's underserved, especially in San Bernardino County, is the region's vast geographical expanse, said Laurie Felland of Mathematical Policy Research, the study's main author.

To tackle the shortage of residency positions in the region, the federal government will fund 32 resident

positions out of the \$68 million Loma Linda University Health — San Bernardino, Hart said.

With a gain of some 475,000, mostly Medi-Cal patients since January 2014, the Inland Empire Health Plan has agreed to partially subsidize the salaries of new doctors coming into the area willing to take Medi-Cal and Medi-Care patients from the plan, said Dr. Bradley Gilbert, CEO of the Inland Empire Health Plan.

As a result, 97 new doctors have been brought into the area.

Recently, the Inland Empire Health Plan board of directors authorized the set-aside of millions of dollars to help fund the space where doctors can see those Medi-Cal and Medi-Care patients, Gilbert said.

“While other areas of the state have seen their unemployment rate rates decline over the last three years as Medi-Cal enrollment grew, the Inland Empire’s erosion of commercial coverage resulted in an uptick in the insurance rate, to 17 percent in 2014,” the report says.

The state average is 12 percent.

The report notes that many of those have since gained Medi-Cal, which has likely brought the insurance rate down.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/health/20160314/physician-shortages-continue-to-plague-inland-empire>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

By Staff Reports

Print Page

March 14, 2016 9:21AM

Man arrested after crashing into deputies' cars in Victorville

VICTORVILLE — Authorities said they arrested a man after he struck San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department patrol cars while under the influence late Saturday.

The crash occurred just before 10 p.m. at the intersection of Mojave Drive and Mesa Linda Street, where authorities had blocked the intersection after a pursuit that started in Adelanto. The pursuit ended on Mojave Drive east of Highway 395 in Victorville, so the deputies stopped westbound traffic at the intersection of Mojave Drive and Mesa Linda Avenue to assist with the end of the pursuit.

Authorities said in a Sunday news release two Victorville Sheriff's Station patrol units had blocked the intersection and had their overhead emergency lights on. Miguel Zambrano, 26, of Adelanto, who was not involved in the pursuit, was reportedly headed west on Mojave Drive and failed to notice the deputies at the intersection. He struck two patrol units, which were occupied at the time, authorities said. One of the deputies suffered minor injuries and was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Zambrano and his passenger, Alexis Garcia, 19, of Ontario, were both taken to a local hospital with unknown injuries. Zambrano was later arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence, authorities said. No further information was available on the initial pursuit, Zambrano's custody or any future court dates on Monday.

The San Bernardino County Region II Major Accident Investigation Team members responded and conducted the investigation. Anyone with information regarding the collision is asked to contact Deputy Travis James or Deputy Brett Haynes at the Victor Valley Station at 760-552-6800.



A Victorville Sheriff's Station patrol unit is seen with damage after a man struck it and another patrol unit late Saturday. The man was later arrested on suspicion of DUI, authorities said. Photo courtesy of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160314/NEWS/160319896>

Print Page

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

San Bernardino County Supervisor Robert Lovingood facing 4 challengers

By Joe Nelson, The Sun

Monday, March 14, 2016



San Bernardino County Supervisor Robert Lovingood is facing the most challengers of any of the supervisors in the June primary, with four vying for his seat including two Hesperia councilmen, a former Victorville councilwoman and the former mayor of Apple Valley.

Friday was the filing deadline for candidates seeking public office. Three incumbent county supervisors, including Lovingood, are up for re-election, and only Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales is running unopposed in her fourth and final term.

Board of Supervisors Chairman James Ramos, running for his second term, has one challenger — his former field representative for the Morongo Basin, Donna Munoz, who is now the general manager for the Morongo Basin Community Services District and Fire Department.

Lovingood, however, is facing the fiercest competition in his run for his second term on the board. The vice chairman of the board's challengers include Hesperia Mayor Bill Holland and Councilman Paul Russ, former Victorville Councilwoman Angela Valles, and Valles' husband, former Apple Valley Mayor and retired sheriff's lieutenant Rick Roelle, who ran against Lovingood in 2012.

Russ is the only challenger of Lovingood's whose platform includes the [Dec. 2 terrorist attack](#) at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, where county environmental health specialist Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife fatally shot 14 people and wounded 22 others, before being killed hours later in a shootout with police.

According to his candidate statement filed with the county elections office, Russ said he would dramatically increase the number of concealed weapons permits issued to law abiding gun owners.

"It has already been months since that horrific afternoon. But what has been done to keep us safer? Nothing! The Obama Administration? Nothing! Absolutely nothing!" Russ said of the San Bernardino mass shooting in his candidate statement.

Holland, now in his second term on the Hesperia City Council and a former sheriff's deputy of 22 years, is focusing on economic development, public safety and government reforms.

“Bill Holland is running for supervisor with a detailed agenda to improve the quality of life for everyday San Bernardino County residents,” according to Holland’s candidate statement.

As of Monday, Roelle had not filed a candidate statement.

Valles said in her statement she “will work with concerned residents and law enforcement organizations to defeat criminal enterprises that threaten our businesses and families.” Her focus will be on “combating drug abuse and crime.”

Valles is a former Victorville councilwoman and Victor Valley College board trustee who holds a masters degree in organizational development from Pepperdine University School of Business, according to her candidate statement, which also states she is a former professor of criminal justice and prison warden,

Valles has had a prolonged public feud with Lovingood, alleging his High Desert business interests have not been transparent and have presented a conflict of interest — allegations Lovingood continues to deny.

On March 7, Valles filed complaints against Lovingood with the state Fair Political Practices Commission and the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Public Integrity Unit. She alleges Lovingood has not disclosed in state filings clients from which his Victorville temp agency, ICR Staffing Services, receives \$10,000 or more annually.

By not disclosing that information on statement of economic interest forms, which list income and assets of public officials as well as any gifts they may have received, it is impossible to know whether a conflict of interest exists, Valles alleges in her complaint.

In a telephone interview Monday, Lovingood declined to comment on Valles’ complaint, other than to say his company’s record speaks for itself.

As to the high demand for his seat on the Board of Supervisors this election year, Lovingood said, “I think it’s fantastic. It’s America. It’s everyone’s right.”

He said he is running for re-election on a “foundation of success,” from crime sweeps that produced more than 1,600 felony arrests and improved neighborhood safety in his district to creating jobs and helping produce a county budget that for the first time in seven years is balanced and has a surplus.

Lovingood said he will continue addressing the issues that are of most concern to his constituents, among them taxes, renewable energy projects and building his region’s much-needed infrastructure.

“There’s people who say politics is a full-contact sport. This job is a full-contact job,” Lovingood said.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20160314/san-bernardino-county-supervisor-robert-lovingood-facing-4-challengers>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

San Bernardino wrestles with reasons for homicide increase

By Ryan Hagen, The Sun

Monday, March 14, 2016



SAN BERNARDINO >> When a bullet [fatally hit a 12-year-old](#) boy Sunday night, extra police were already on patrol to respond to a recent wave of gang-related violence that's contributed to the city suffering 15 homicides so far this year.

But those officers were on the other side of the city, and the first police didn't arrive on the scene until nine minutes after 911 was called, according to Police Chief Jarrod Burguan.

By contrast, [Burguan said last May](#) that the time from when the call was placed until officers arrive on scene averaged five to six minutes, and in 2009 was between four-and-a-half and five minutes.

That's just one symptom of policy decisions, he said.

"We're seeing the effect of years of public safety cutbacks in this community and statewide," Burguan said Monday.

Statewide, that means initiatives like [prison realignment](#) and [Proposition 47](#), which reclassified six low-level drug and property offenses from felonies to misdemeanors and mandated that savings from reduced incarceration costs be put back into communities, largely for drug treatment, mental health care and supportive housing.

People caught for low-level offenses staying on the street contributes to more high-level offenses, he said.

"You're addressing the minor stuff to mitigate the bigger stuff," Burguan said. "I don't know if they (voters) understood that so many of those drug arrests that have been reduced to misdemeanors were engaged in theft, engaged in burglary, engaged in gangs."

And locally, it means budget cuts that have resulted in a Police Department with 30 percent fewer officers [than in 2008](#).

San Bernardino has a plan to reverse those cuts — more than \$50 million in new police spending over five years, bringing the force back to 320 officers — that's been approved by the City Council, but not yet budgeted. Another hurdle will be finding officers to fill those jobs, as other departments are also ramping up hiring, Burguan said.

Community efforts

A march to reduce gun violence was already scheduled for Thursday, beginning at 4 p.m. at St. Anthony's Parish, 1640 Western Ave., and Sunday's shooting only reiterates its importance, said organizer Sergio Luna of Inland Congregations United for Change.

"Our agenda is still the same: We need to have our local elected officials, our Police Department, working with the faith community like ICUC to look into how to best approach this issue," Luna said. "Right now, our goal is to bring awareness of what model cities in California — Richmond and Oakland — have done to reduce gang violence. Those cities have done something significant, but they're not going to have these conversations with City Council members or the police, because they're not aware of it."

Those cities and others, including Chicago, have implemented an approach called Operation Ceasefire, which includes skills training and working with people in the community to intervene.

Burguan said he's studied the approach and would support a similar program, but that it couldn't come from the Police Department.

"I went to Chicago and I saw the program firsthand, and it's had success, but in places that operate Ceasefire, it's a community-based project," he said. "It's people that have a bad history, people that have come from the streets — that have come from the community — to intervene and interrupt when violence strikes. I can support the program, but I can't hire that person; that person will have no legitimacy if I hire them."

Councilman Fred Shorett, whose ward was the site of Sunday's shooting, said the community needs to take responsibility.

"It's a breakdown of the family, and I don't know how a legislator can fix that," Shorett said, adding that Proposition 47 and Assembly Bill 109 made the problem worse. Shorett said he wasn't familiar with Operation Ceasefire.

Luna said the state's actions had helped.

"They have cases of people actually turning around their lives," Luna said. "And if (having) more police stopped crimes, look at 2005 — it's the same amount of crime and (30 percent less) Police Department."

San Bernardino had 58 homicides in 2005, before the city [began an aggressive anti-crime effort](#) that faded away with the Recession and political opposition to its social service aspects.

And when Burguan started, in 1992, there were 82 homicides — double what the city would now consider a bad year, he said. The longterm crime trend is down, but it spikes periodically, he said.

"When these upswings happen, there's all kinds of inputs," he said. "The police try to change our patrol; sometimes it's just getting certain key shot-callers and putting them in jail. Sometimes it takes getting the community and the faith community involved. ... But when you have fewer officers for suppression and proactive policing, it makes it harder."

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160314/san-bernardino-wrestles-with-reasons-for-homicide-increase>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

San Bernardino residents hold candlelight vigil for Jason Spears, boy gunned down Sunday

By Doug Saunders, The Sun

Monday, March 14, 2016



SAN BERNARDINO >> More than 100 people showed up Monday night to mourn the death of a local boy who was gunned down Sunday night.

Jason Spears died less than two blocks from his home when he and two others were ambushed in a driveby shooting.

He was 12.

“This violence needs to end,” Major Daniel Henderson of the The Salvation Army Corps of San Bernardino said.
“Something needs to be done.”

Jason’s mother Shana attended the vigil but was weakened from the shear emotion of her loss and needed to be helped into her car.

• [Video: Candlelight Vigil held in San Bernardino for shooting victims](#)

The [double shooting](#) sent a shock wave of anger and despair through the community.

“Gang members are cowards,” 16-year-old Deshon Middleton said. “Just because we live in a poor community doesn’t mean we have to stand for this tragedy to continue.”

It was just after 10 p.m. Sunday when shots rang out.

When police arrived, they found Spears and his 14-year-old cousin Terrance suffering from gunshot wounds.

Both boys were taken to St. Bernardine Medical Center in San Bernardino where Jason later died. Terrance suffered non-life-threatening wounds.

Police are actively seeking information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the shooters.

A black full-size SUV was seen fleeing the area just after the gunfire erupted.

“We need to end this violence now,” said 41-year-old Elaine Middleton. “The killing of a child is and should be unacceptable.”

Anyone with additional information is asked to call San Bernardino police Detective Al Tello at 909-384-5747 or Sgt. Emil Kokesh at 909-384-5615.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160314/san-bernardino-residents-hold-candlelight-vigil-for-jason-spears-boy-gunned-down-sunday>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)



breeze.com/)

(http://www.oc-



Orange County public pension burden below 10 percent



TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016

COURTESY ([HTTP://WWW.OC-BREEZE.COM/AUTHOR/COURTESY/](http://www.oc-breeze.com/author/courtesy/))GOVERNMENT ([HTTP://WWW.OC-BREEZE.COM/CATEGORY/GOVERNMENT/](http://www.oc-breeze.com/category/government/))0 COMMENTS ([HTTP://WWW.OC-BREEZE.COM/2016/03/15/83694_ORANGE-COUNTY-PUBLIC-PENSION-BURDEN-BELOW-10-PERCENT/#RESPOND](http://www.oc-breeze.com/2016/03/15/83694_orange-county-public-pension-burden-below-10-percent/#respond))GOVERNMENT ([HTTP://WWW.OC-BREEZE.COM/CATEGORY/GOVERNMENT/](http://www.oc-breeze.com/category/government/))

The article below is from California Policy Center and discusses four California counties that suffer under a public pension burden of 10 percent or higher. Orange County slides in under that threshold at 8.7 percent. In contrast are our neighbors: Los Angeles County (6.5 percent), Riverside County (5.2 percent), San Bernardino County (6.6 percent), and San Diego (8.5 percent).

Years after the Great Recession slammed their Wall Street investments, at least four California counties have broken through the 10 percent ceiling, spending one of out of every \$10 to fund their government-employee retirement programs.

The resulting strain on local budgets, called the pension burden, is one of the revelations in California Policy Center's latest analysis of county reports.

Study author Marc Joffe said county pension burdens may be worse than his analysis reveals.

"Because pension systems usually require their actuaries to assume high rates of return on their assets, it's arguable that counties understate their actual pension burdens," Joffe said. "The financial stress on local governments is likely more critical than even our numbers reveal."

Four California counties reported their pension contributions now exceed 10 percent of total revenues: Santa Barbara County (13.1 percent), Kern County (11 percent), Fresno County (10.7 percent) and San Mateo County (10 percent).

A fifth county, Merced, is also expected to report that its required contributions topped 10 percent of 2015 revenue when it files its audit.

"For years, public employee union leaders denied the pension burden was even close to 10 percent," California Policy Center president Ed Ring noted. "This study shows the burden in some places is now approaching 15 percent of total revenues."

The surveyed counties, which account for more than 95 percent of California's population, made over \$5.4 billion in pension contributions during the fiscal year. These counties also made \$660 million of debt service payments on pension obligation bonds, raising total pension costs to over \$6 billion last year.

That figure accounts for about one sixth of all California state and local pension contributions (not including payments on pension obligation bonds), estimated at \$30.1 billion in 2014.

As investment markets remain relatively flat, it seems likely that many California counties will bow to pressure to cut government services or to raise cash through debt instruments or taxes.

The full report can be read at [California Public Policy Center \(http://californiapolicycenter.org/county-pension-burdens-vary-widely/\)](http://californiapolicycenter.org/county-pension-burdens-vary-widely/).

TAGS CALIFORNIA ([HTTP://WWW.OC-BREEZE.COM/TAG/CALIFORNIA/](http://www.oc-breeze.com/tag/california/))

FRESNO COUNTY CA ([HTTP://WWW.OC-BREEZE.COM/TAG/FRESNO-COUNTY-CA/](http://www.oc-breeze.com/tag/fresno-county-ca/))

GOVERNMENT ([HTTP://WWW.OC-BREEZE.COM/TAG/GOVERNMENT/](http://www.oc-breeze.com/tag/government/))

KERN COUNTY CA ([HTTP://WWW.OC-BREEZE.COM/TAG/KERN-COUNTY-CA/](http://www.oc-breeze.com/tag/kern-county-ca/))

ORANGE COUNTY CA ([HTTP://WWW.OC-BREEZE.COM/TAG/ORANGE-COUNTY-CA/](http://www.oc-breeze.com/tag/orange-county-ca/))

PUBLIC PENSION ([HTTP://WWW.OC-BREEZE.COM/TAG/PUBLIC-PENSION/](http://www.oc-breeze.com/tag/public-pension/))

SAN MATEO COUNTY CA ([HTTP://WWW.OC-BREEZE.COM/TAG/SAN-MATEO-COUNTY-CA/](http://www.oc-breeze.com/tag/san-mateo-county-ca/))

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CA ([HTTP://WWW.OC-BREEZE.COM/TAG/SANTA-BARBARA-COUNTY-CA/](http://www.oc-breeze.com/tag/santa-barbara-county-ca/))

Landscape by Sprout

Effectively Crop Images At Scale. Upload, Crop, Save. Try It Free Now



(http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.oc-breeze.com%2F2016%2F03%2F15%2F83694_orange-county-public-pension-burden-below-10-percent%2F)



(https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?text=Orange+County+public+pension+burden+below+10+percent&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.oc-breeze.com%2F2016%2F03%2F15%2F83694_orange-county-public-pension-burden-below-10-percent%2F)

« PREVIOUS ARTICLE

Weather in northwest Orange County for Tuesday, March 15, 2016 (http://www.oc-breeze.com/2016/03/15/83682_weather-northwest-orange-county-tuesday-march-15-2016/)



(<http://www.oc-breeze.com/author/courtesy/>)

courtesy (<http://www.oc-breeze.com/author/courtesy/>)

This author is used when OC Breeze publishes news releases from other organizations.



(http://www.twitter.com/OC_Breeze)



(<http://www.facebook.com/oc.breeze.newspaper>)



LOCAL GOVERNMENT



The City of Fresno Is Carrying a Surplus in its Public Pension System

POSTED BY : [GUEST COMMENTARY](#) MARCH 14, 2016*Originally posted at [Retirement Security Initiative](#).*

You may be scratching your head and asking, "The City of Fresno?" Yes. The City of Fresno. The Retirement Security Initiative this week salutes Fresno for doing what no other California city, county, or even the state has been able to do, which is carry a surplus in its public pension system. In fact, the City of Fresno is only one of a few major public pension programs in the U.S. that is fully funded. (Perhaps some of their actuarial assumptions, like a 7.5 percent rate of investment return, are overly optimistic, but they are far better off than most other plans in the country, which also employ overly optimistic assumptions.)

A [report](#) released this week by Transparent California shows Fresno's pension program has a surplus of \$289 million. This is big news for a state that's swimming in an estimated \$300 billion worth of unfunded pension liabilities. Further, areas surrounding Fresno also find themselves in deep water when it comes to pension debt. For example, Fresno County's unfunded pension liability is \$980 million, Madera County's is \$136 million and King's County is \$82 million.

So, how does Fresno not only keep its head above water but manage to look like Esther Williams while doing it? According to Transparent California's Research Director Robert Fellner, the city doesn't make promises it can't keep. "The reason for the unique success of the [City of Fresno Retirement Systems] is simple," says Fellner. "They promised only what they could afford to pay for."

To be able to do this takes collaboration, partnership and input from all stakeholders. According to the plan's administrator, Robert Theller, that's exactly what has helped Fresno maintain its conservative

LATEST HEADLINES

[Contra Costa County doctors' illegal pension spikes rejected](#)[Santa Barbara County to vet progress between Chumash, subcommittee](#)[Hemet City Council not pleased with districting](#)[Arroyo Grande to roll out looser medical marijuana laws](#)[Why put off the inevitable? Invite state water board to take over Paso basin management](#)[Click here for more headlines](#)

SIGN UP FOR OUR DAILY NEWSLETTER!

First Name

Last Name

Email Address *

[Sign Up](#)

approach. “The city, the unions, management and the retirement boards have worked for many, many years at coming to fair compromises,” Theller told the Fresno Bee. “The pension benefits aren’t over the top, and they’re not underwhelming either. ... It puts it much more in the realm of ‘comfortable.’ ”

“It’s nice to see a system just doing something right,” says Fellner. And RSI couldn’t agree more. Promising only what you can afford to pay and paying for all that you promised is rare but commendable. So, our hats are off this week to the City of Fresno and its retirement system administrator and board members, public officials and labor leaders who have contributed toward its long-term goal of maintaining a healthy and sustainable pension for its employees while looking out for its taxpayers.

Comments

2 comments

2 Comments

Sort by **Oldest**

Add a comment...

SHARE THIS STORY



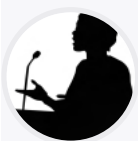
◀ Previous Post

Venice Sues the City: ‘Their Fight Is Our Fight’ Says Director of Neighborhood Protection Plan

Next Post ▶

Amador County Supervisor Forster: Tree Mortality, The Cycle of Life Interrupted

ABOUT GUEST COMMENTARY



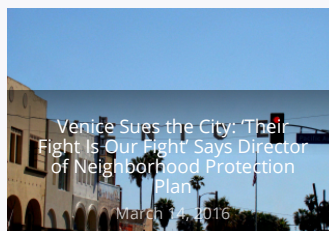
PublicCEO is proud to have a wide range of guest contributors share their insight with our publication. Please note that the views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of, and should not be attributed to, PublicCEO as an organization.

RELATED POSTS



California Cities Use Creative Approaches to Recycling

Amador County Supervisor Forster: Tree Mortality, The Cycle of Life Interrupted



Synoptek provides full life-cycle information systems planning, implementation and operating services

Synoptek
process. technology. results.

FOLLOW PUBLICCEO



3,000
Followers



0
Fans



Subscribe
Rss



**COST RELIEF
FOR YOUR
GENERAL FUND**



Raise your revenue.

Grow your community.

Earn More

FREE
revenue assessment

**Politics Getting in the
Way of Governing?**

**Get to its Roots with
“GUTSY OPINIONS”**

**No More Gridlock.
Just a Path to
Progress.**

By [Shea Johnson](#)[Print Page](#)

March 14, 2016 2:22PM

Herrera appointed as permanent city manager in Adelanto

ADELANTO — Interim City Manager Cindy Herrera has been named to the position on a permanent basis, several months after becoming the second city employee to assume the interim role following Jim Hart's resignation early last year, city spokesman Michael Stevens said.

The City Council approved the appointment last Wednesday.

Herrera, who has served as the City Clerk, was appointed by a 4-0 vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Jermaine Wright absent. She was named interim city manager last summer after Tom Thornton resigned six weeks into the gig. Thornton, who formerly headed the city's engineering and public works departments, left the city in January.

"Cindy has proven that her 29 years with the city and her tremendous background knowledge has prepared her to step into the position of City Manager," Mayor Rich Kerr said in a statement distributed by Stevens on Saturday. "... (T)here's no other staff member who has the institutional knowledge that she has."

Acknowledging Herrera's only short-term city manager experience, Stevens said she showed she was "up to the challenge" during the roughly nine-month interim period and that her "rapport with city staff" and "the need for continuity" had been motivating factors for appointing her to the interim position in the first place.

"I was flattered that the Council chose me as interim and now permanent City Manager, but I wouldn't be able to do the job without an immensely talented and devoted staff," Herrera said. "There are a number of exciting and promising initiatives underway that should help to alleviate the financial strain the city has been under during the past several years."

Herrera lives in the High Desert and is married with one child. She started working for the city in 1987, beginning as an executive assistant for then City Manager Pat Chamberlaine.

Shea Johnson may be reached at 760-955-5368 or SJohnson@VVDailyPress.com. Follow him on Twitter at [@DP_Shea](#).

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160314/NEWS/160319888>

[Print Page](#)

LOCAL / Westside

Beverly Hills put a spotlight on its celebrity water wasters -- and it worked



Developer Geoff Palmer's household used more than 12,000 gallons of water a day during a two-month period. Facing a penalty, Palmer appealed in January. (Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times)



By **Matt Stevens** · Contact Reporter

MARCH 14, 2016, 12:15 PM

Officials in Beverly Hills say they tried it all: educational campaigns, usage restrictions and written notices for people suspected of wasting water.

Despite those efforts, the community missed its savings target every month since June, when a statewide 25% reduction in urban water consumption became mandatory amid the punishing drought. As a result, state regulators fined the city, saying publicly that its water wasters "should be ashamed."

Water and Power is The Times' guide to the drought. Sign up to get the free newsletter

>>

About four months ago, city officials got tough. Beverly Hills sent letters to dozens of customers in November warning them of high water use and urging them to cut back. The city also began penalizing profligate users.

The letters went to entertainment industry figures such as comedian Amy Poehler, prominent real estate developers such as Geoff Palmer and other notable names. An estate owned by philanthropist and former media mogul David Geffen used an average of about 27,000 gallons of water a day between June 2 and Aug. 2 — roughly 60 times what an average Los Angeles family uses and about 9,000 gallons more per day than what Geffen was allowed.

Now it appears the crackdown is working. The city cut its water usage by 26% in January — its highest percentage in eight months of reporting and more than double its effort in December.

"We believe that the penalty surcharges have had an impact," city spokeswoman Therese Kosterman said. "Many different tools are necessary in order to achieve ... deep cuts in water conservation."

To achieve the 25% cut ordered by Gov. Jerry Brown, the State Water Resources Control Board assigned California's urban water suppliers individual conservation standards that they would be required to meet between June and February. Beverly Hills was told to slash its usage by 32% compared with 2013.

In May, city officials enacted restrictions on outdoor watering, refilling swimming pools and washing cars. The Stage D regulations also required a large majority of customers to cut their water consumption by 30%, compared with the same period in 2013. By the end of June, the City Council had approved penalty surcharges for those who failed to comply and began assessing them in November.

Between June and November, the city received scores of complaints about customers violating the Stage D regulations. Officials followed up with notices reminding these customers of the watering restrictions.

Still, Beverly Hills continually fell short of the state-mandated savings target, and in late October, the water board fined the city and three other water providers \$61,000. According to the most recent state data available, the city has shaved its water use in June through January by 19% from 2013 levels.

By comparison, the Santa Fe Irrigation District persuaded its customers — including those in well-to-do Rancho Santa Fe — to cut back their water use by almost 35%. Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, whose service area includes Calabasas and Hidden Hills, has reduced consumption by 29.5%.

"The inference we're drawing is it's not the agency," said Cris Carrigan, the state water board's chief of enforcement. "The agency is providing the right tools to their customers. It's that the customers don't have the wherewithal to commit to conservation."

"I'm not sure why that is," he continued. "There are other affluent communities in the state where conservation is cool. In Beverly Hills, for whatever reason, people are not motivated."

[See the most-read stories this hour >>](#)

In a letter sent to the state in April, a city official worried that meeting a high conservation target "in such a short time may ultimately be infeasible." The official argued that some suppliers face "specific demographic and geographic factors" that make it harder for them to meet conservation targets.

A 2014 UCLA study showed that wealthier neighborhoods typically consume three times more water than less-affluent ones. But Bruce Reznik, executive director of Los Angeles Waterkeeper, a waterway protection and restoration organization, said demographics are no excuse.

"I don't mean to get the world's smallest violin out, but you've got a constituency that has the means to do aggressive water conservation," Reznik said. "It's the lowest hanging fruit to turn off the sprinklers for a couple days. It's not brain surgery."

On Nov. 6, the city sent letters to 86 single-family residential water customers — the highest users among those who failed to meet the city's 30% reduction mandate.

The letters covered a two-month billing cycle that generally ran from June to August. The Times obtained the letters and corresponding water bills in response to a request filed under the California Public Records Act.

All along, Beverly Hills has urged its residents to "conserve water irrespective of their financial status," Mayor Julian Gold said in a statement. "These letters were the latest in our toolbox to encourage the top water users to be more conservation minded."

Some of the homes where the city says the profligate water use occurred have been listed for tens of millions of dollars and feature six, nine or even 18 bathrooms. The two-month bills ranged from \$2,458 to as high as \$31,640 and did not include penalty surcharges.

Geffen was charged more than \$30,000 for 1.6 million gallons at the property known as the Warner Estate. The city said his "allowed water usage" for that billing period was about 1.1 million gallons.

During the most recent billing cycle, ending in January, water use at the estate dropped by 56% compared with the same period in 2013, Kosterman said.

Reached by phone, a woman who identified herself as an assistant for Geffen told a Times reporter to email Geffen to request a comment.

In an email Monday, Geffen said he has been trying to get permission from the city of Beverly Hills to drill a well on his property, which covers 10 usable acres.

The well would allow him to "access the underground river that flows beneath my home instead of water from the city," Geffen wrote. "That water is not potable and simply flows into the ocean and is wasted."

Poehler was charged more than \$2,200 for water use at a property. The usage there between May 14 and July 14 exceeded 170,000 gallons, according to her bill.

Poehler's representatives did not return calls and emails requesting comment.

Palmer's household used more than 12,000 gallons of water per day during the period, at a total cost of more than \$12,000.

In an email to The Times, Palmer said a leaking pipe had been discovered on his property that accounted for the excess usage, though in an earlier email, he also complained that the state's water has been misallocated.

Referring to agriculture, Palmer wrote, "This small lobby of special interests controls water that could be allocated to the 39 million residents of California who are being asked to sacrifice.... Wouldn't you be willing to pay a little more for walnuts and pistachios than see your lawn and landscaping go dead?"

Facing a penalty, Palmer filed an appeal at the end of January.

Others who got warning letters included film director and producer Brett Ratner and Jason "Max" Mutchnick, co-creator of "Will & Grace."

In a statement, Ratner said he was not aware of the excessive water use at his home. After investigating, he said he discovered multiple pipe leaks and promised to repair them. Subsequently, more leaks were found and Ratner is now replacing the entire water line, a spokeswoman said.

In a separate email, a representative for Mutchnick said two "substantial" leaks had been detected and have since been repaired.

Regulators have said they would consider a water supplier's effort and look for signs of progress when deciding whether to take enforcement actions.

Beverly Hills had missed its conservation standard by increasing margins for three consecutive months until January, when the city's savings percentage shot up even as statewide conservation continued to decline.

But 26% is well short of the city's 32% conservation standard, and city officials say they know they are still subject to penalties.

Asked whether Beverly Hills could get fined again because it still has not met its target, the state water board's Carrigan said, "We might do that."

matt.stevens@latimes.com

Twitter: [@ByMattStevens](https://twitter.com/ByMattStevens)

Times editorial library director Cary Schneider contributed to this report.

ALSO

[California's next governor: Who's running, who's on the fence?](#)

['You don't drink the water in Gardena': A year later, residents remain skeptical](#)

[Silicon Valley fears European backlash after Congress limits visa waiver program](#)

Copyright © 2016, Los Angeles Times

A version of this article appeared in print on March 14, 2016, in the News section of the Los Angeles Times with the headline "Beverly Hills tightens spigot - Money talks in this rich enclave: Water use declines after threats of surcharges." — [Today's paper](#) | [Subscribe](#)

UPDATE

12:15 p.m.: This article has been updated with comment from David Geffen.

This article was originally published at 4 a.m.

Borenstein: Contra Costa County doctors' illegal pension spikes rejected

By Daniel Borenstein, dborenstein@bayareanewsgroup.com
Contra Costa Times

Posted: Fri Mar 11 09:38:14 MST 2016

In another crackdown on pension spiking, the Contra Costa retirement board trimmed payments to four county doctors who had been overcompensated since 2012.

The Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association on Wednesday cut by an average 9 percent the future pension payments to Drs. Krista Farey, David Hearst, Priscilla Hinman and Dana Slauson.

The action reduced their annual payouts by an average \$10,000 each. For their lifetimes, assuming normal longevity, the cuts average about \$150,000 each in today's dollars.

However, departing from past practices, the retirement board decided to recoup nearly three years of past overpayments from the county rather than the retirees.

It was the right decision. As reported here in 2013, the pension spiking resulted from a scheme Health Services Director William Walker cooked up to inflate doctors' salaries without approval from the county Board of Supervisors.

The doctors didn't know the extra pay they received during their final year could not legally be counted as income when calculating their pensions.

It's the third time in 10 months that the independent retirement board, comprised of county, employee and retiree representatives, cut retirees' pensions.

In May, the board trimmed 11 percent, or \$14,000 annually, from Paul Andrews' retirement pay. The county hazardous materials worker spiked his pension by claiming 4,836 on-call hours during his final year of work. The present value of the cut over his expected lifetime is about \$216,000.

The retirement association is currently reviewing similar pension spiking by other hazardous materials workers.

In September, the board reduced former Moraga-Orinda Fire Chief Peter Nowicki's pension by 28 percent, or more than \$67,000 annually. In today's dollars, that's about \$1.7 million over his expected lifetime.

Nowicki spiked his pension by orchestrating an amendment to his contract three days before he announced his retirement. He has filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn the pension cut.

The retirement association's review of questionable pensions began in 2014. It was prompted by new state law mandating such reviews, years of reports of excesses and a shift in membership of a board once controlled by labor advocates.

Interestingly almost all the retirement board members, including labor representatives, have supported the rollbacks. The vote Wednesday to trim the doctors' payouts was 8-1.

Board members expressed sympathy for the physicians but noted that state law forbids the extra retirement payments. Pensions are calculated based on years of service, age at retirement and, significantly in this case, top annual salary.

But the income used in pension calculations can only be for labor performed during normal working hours that is required of all employees in the same job classification. The idea is to prevent an employee from, for example, working lots of overtime to fatten a future pension.

In this case, however, the claimed work was voluntary, was beyond their standard 40-hour workweek and didn't apply to all county physicians.

Walker, the health services director, implemented the special compensation program in 2011. He later said it was needed to

attract and retain doctors. Primary care doctors were eligible if they agreed to work at least 18 hours a week in the county's community clinics and manage care for groups of patients.

In exchange, the doctors received an additional 7 1/2 hours of bonus pay each week. The county reported the pay to the pension system as compensation for being on-call after hours.

On-call pay was considered income that could count in future pension calculations. In fact, Walker later acknowledged, the doctors weren't on-call during those extra hours.

Walker used the subterfuge to avoid seeking Board of Supervisors' approval for salary increases. The county auditor's office uncovered the scheme in 2013 and reported it to the pension system.

The discovery triggered two retirement association investigations. The first, still ongoing, examines whether doctors' on-call pay meets the legal requirement to be counted in pension calculations.

The second questioned whether compensation for Walker's special program met the requirement. The pension board said no.

The four doctors on Wednesday told of hardships resulting from the average \$10,000 annual cuts to their pensions. However, in addition to their remaining pensions, averaging \$97,000 a year, they each also continue working part-time for the county, receiving annual income averaging \$74,000.

Daniel Borenstein is a staff columnist and editorial writer. Reach him at 925-943-8248 or dborenstein@bayareanewsgroup.com. Follow him at [Twitter.com/BorensteinDan](https://twitter.com/BorensteinDan).

[Close Window](#)[Send To Printer](#)

DAN WALTERS MARCH 14, 2016 3:27 PM

Dan Walters: California lawmakers finally pushing campaign sunshine

HIGHLIGHTS

California expanding information about political finances

Legislature, FPPC move on several fronts

Now an upgrade of clunky Cal-Access system proposed



BY DAN WALTERS
dwalters@sacbee.com

Slowly – perhaps too slowly – but surely, California is shining some much-needed light into the darker corners of its political system.

The Fair Political Practices Commission, implementing legislation enacted two years ago, is closing loopholes that allowed huge sums of “dark money” to flow into political campaigns without its origins being disclosed.

The legislation and the regulations were inspired, if that’s the correct word, by a big blowup during the 2012 election cycle over \$15 million in mystery money that flowed into California to influence voters on two ballot measures, including Gov. Jerry Brown’s tax increase.

Under the new FPPC regulations, supposed nonprofit groups that are spending on California campaigns would have to disclose their original donors, even if the money floats through other groups.

“There should be no dark money in California,” Common Cause representative Gavin Baker told the commission before it acted.

During the current legislative session, two bills are moving to require more disclosure in political advertisements about their sponsors and to require those seeking government contracts to register as lobbyists.

Assembly Bills 700 and 1200 are similar to provisions of a proposed measure for the November ballot, backed by Silicon Valley software entrepreneur Jim Heerwagen and political reform groups, for which signatures were being gathered.

However, Heerwagen’s group stopped its signature-gathering campaign on Monday when he, Sen. Robert Hertzberg and Secretary of State Alex Padilla announced that Hertzberg would carry legislation mirroring a third major provision of the ballot measure – a much-needed modernization of Cal-Access, California’s campaign finance reporting system.

Despite its name, access to meaningful data through its Internet portal – when it’s not out of commission – has been clumsy, at best. Padilla has improved it slightly by allowing access through another portal that organizes the data, but it’s still a patchwork system that should embarrass the global center of digital data.

Brown, who as secretary of state in 1974 sponsored California’s Political Reform Act, directed the state Government Operations Agency in 2013 to review how it operates. Last year, the agency issued a report that cataloged deficiencies of the campaign finance and lobbying reporting system and proposed six options for improvement, including replacing Cal-Access.

Hertzberg’s Senate Bill 1349 would authorize a modernization of the system, easing use by both those required to make disclosures and those, such as we in the media, who seek information.

Simultaneously, Hertzberg is asking the Senate’s budget committee to provide a specific appropriation for the upgrade.

The current estimate for making Cal-Access a user-friendly, 21st-century system is \$13.5 million, which is pocket lint in a state budget of well over \$100 billion and an infinitesimal cost for allowing Californians to know who’s giving to whom and, implicitly, why.

It’s a cliché, but true, that sunshine is the best political disinfectant.

Dan Walters: 916-321-1195, dwalters@sacbee.com, @WaltersBee

reprints

MORE DAN WALTERS

COMMENTS

SPONSORED CONTENT

Facts That May Surprise You About the CA Lottery [Video]

Curious how Lottery money gets to schools? You may not know it, but together we have contributed more than \$29 billion in supplemental funds to...

By CA Lottery

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

At-risk Rialto students tour NASA's JPL

By Ryan Hagen, The Sun

Monday, March 14, 2016



PASADENA >> At-risk students from Rialto Unified School District recently toured NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab as part President Obama's [My Brother's Keeper](#) initiative.

Obama launched the program in 2014 to address the opportunity gap faced by boys and young men of color, according to the White House website.

"I was so excited," said Cassandra Alvarez, an eighth grader at Frisbie Middle School, in a news release. "I'm looking forward to learning more about the Mars Rover."

JPL hosted students on March 7 who don't traditionally have the opportunity to visit local NASA labs brought by Rialto Unified, the city of Compton, Long Beach Neighborhood Services Bureau and LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis.

"This is an awesome day for the youth of Rialto, we are one of only four organizations visiting JPL today, and the only group selected from San Bernardino County," said Rialto Mayor Deborah Robertson, who went with the students to JPL. "It was so exciting to see the joy in the children's faces as they learned about space and space technology."

Ten of the Rialto students were graduates of Rialto's e3p3 Gang Intervention and Prevention, a 12-week program that receives state grant funds for about 100 youth each summer.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/social-affairs/20160314/at-risk-rialto-students-tour-nasas-jpl>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailybulletin.com>)

Ordinance on LA County raves, other large-scale events expected to be introduced today

By City News Service

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

LOS ANGELES >> The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is expected to introduce an ordinance today that calls for a case-by-case threat assessment of events — including music raves — expected to draw 10,000 people or more on county property or in unincorporated areas.

The county fair, as well as large-scale indoor events with assigned seating, are excluded from the ordinance because officials say they don't pose the type of health and safety risks they fear.

The ordinance — which follows the drug overdose deaths of two teens who attended the HARD Summer music festival last August — calls for promoters to request a county threat assessment at least 120 days before any planned large-scale event.

If the assessment team determines that “there is a strong probability that loss of life or harm to the participants could occur,” then the promoter will be required to work with county staffers on an action plan to manage health and safety concerns.

The plan may limit capacity, ban or otherwise limit alcohol sales, set a minimum age of 18 or 21 for participants and detail medical and law enforcement resources required for the event.

Backpacks and large purses may be banned and searches of participants may be mandated.

The Electronic Music Festival Task Force offered these and other recommendations to improve safety.

Undercover police, drug-sniffing dogs and “amnesty boxes” for drugs may also be required at some events.

Some advocates warned the board during an earlier public hearing that undercover police and drug-sniffing dogs might lead some festival-goers to take all the drugs they have at once.

Residents living near the county fairgrounds in Pomona had pressed for a outright ban on music raves, citing the widespread use of alcohol and drugs and talking about finding kids passed out on lawns the day after a rave event.

Fairplex is the home of the county fair and dozens of other events, including swap meets, athletic events, car and dog shows and various expos. The county receives a share of revenues generated by such events.

Tracy Nguyen, an 18-year-old UCLA student from West Covina, and 19-year-old Katie Rebecca Dix of Camarillo died last August after attending the HARD Summer music festival at the Pomona fairgrounds.

The county coroner confirmed that Nguyen's death was caused by an overdose of Ecstasy. Dix, a Cal State Channel Islands student, is also suspected to have died from a drug overdose.

Those tragedies were preceded by the overdose death of 15-year-old Sasha Rodriguez at the 2011 Electric Daisy Carnival at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The Electric Daisy Carnival has since moved to Las Vegas.

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/government-and-politics/20160315/ordinance-on-la-county-raves-other-large-scale-events-expected-to-be-introduced-today>

© 2016 Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailybulletin.com>)



ONTARIO: Federal Environmental Protection Agency files suit against vehicle importer

By [GAIL WESSON](#)

2016-03-14 16:06:48



The federal Environmental Protection Agency is alleging in a civil lawsuit that Goldenvale Inc., which has an Ontario warehouse, violated the federal Clean Air Act because of errors in paperwork required to sell motor vehicles in the United States from 2004 to 2009.

It is not the first time a government agency has taken action against the firm, but previous cases were filed by the the state Air Resources Board in cooperation with the San Bernardino County District Attorney's office for similar issues, according to state and county documents.

The lawsuit, filed Friday, March 11, in U.S. District Court in Riverside, alleges imported vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, did not comply with anti-pollution laws.

The lawsuit claims errors in the certificate of compliance paperwork, including that the company was listed as an importer instead of a manufacturer, some vehicle identification numbers did not match the model year on vehicles listed in the certificates and the manufacturer name on the certificate applications did not match the name on invoices.

The aim is to reduce emissions from mobile sources of air pollution, the lawsuit stated.

Investigators found paperwork errors on more than 16,650 vehicles. The lawsuit asks a judge to grant civil penalties not to exceed \$32,500 for each uncertified vehicle violation from March 15, 2004 through Jan. 12, 2008, or \$37,500 for violations after the 2008 date.

A message left at the Ontario warehouse number to speak to the firm's attorney was not returned Monday.

The Southern California region is struggling to meet the federal health standard for smog. It failed to meet the ozone standard during 83 days last year, and future standards will be more stringent. The region also missed a 2015 federal deadline to clean up fine-particle pollution. Motor vehicles contribute to both forms of pollution.

Staff writer David Danelski contributed to this report.

Contact the writer: 951-368-9075 or gwesson@pe.com

© Copyright 2016 Freedom Communications. All Rights Reserved.
[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Site Map](#)

MORONGO BASIN MAC OPPOSES TWO CONTROVERSIAL JOSHUA TREE PROJECTS

By Z107.7 News, on March 15th, 2016

No surprise last night as the Morongo Basin MAC came out against two controversial development projects in Joshua Tree. Reporter David Haldane was there and files this report...

There was discussion but no argument last night as the Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council unanimously adopted resolutions opposing two unpopular Joshua Tree projects.

First up was the 100-acre NextEra solar farm proposed at the site of the old Joshua Tree Airport. Without comment, the Council declared the project "a visual blight for visitors and residents...detrimental to the aesthetics and economy of the area."

Next it shot down the 248-unit Alta Mira housing project planned on 105 acres near Friendly Hills Elementary School. That development, the Council declared, "would depress property values, create traffic problems, destroy native plants and impair the quality of life."

The project's fate could be determined as early as 9 a.m. Thursday at a Planning Commission meeting televised to the county's Joshua Tree offices. Interested residents are invited to attend to voice their concerns.

March 15th, 2016 | Tags: [alta mira housing project](#), [morongo basin](#), [morongo basin municipal advisory council](#), [nextEra](#), [san bernardino county](#), [solar project](#) | Category: [Featured](#), [Local News](#), [Top Story](#)

Illegal paint dump near Mill Creek in Redlands did not cause harm, site being monitored

By Sandra Emerson, Redlands Daily Facts

Monday, March 14, 2016



REDLANDS>> The San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District is keeping an eye on the site where [hundreds of gallons of paint cans were illegally dumped in December](#).

The dumping, near Greenspot Road and Florida Street, did not cause environmental damage but incurred a costly cleanup.

“Sadly, the district’s insurer had to foot the bill for the cleanup, approximately \$25,000, including hazardous waste disposal and cleanup of the contaminated soil,” Daniel Cozad, district

general manager, said in an email Monday.

The district owns the land, which is near Mill Creek — a source of drinking water for Mentone, Redlands and the region.

The district’s field staff, Redlands Fire Department, San Bernardino County Fire Department and Patriot Environmental Services in Ontario worked to ensure the paint did not contaminate the water or groundwater, Cozad said.

“As a district that is focused on the recharge and conservation of water, it would be terrible if waste paint illegally dumped on our property caused contamination of the water we work hard to recharge and protect,” Cozad said.

The district offered a \$1,000 reward to anyone with information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the dumping.

No arrests have been made, said Carl Baker, Redlands spokesman, in an email Monday.

Since the dumping, the district has blocked off the entrances to the property and worked with CalFIRE to perform additional cleanup, removing a boat, hot tub, tires and other debris, Cozad said.

Inmate crews filled more than six rolloff bins with illegally dumped debris, he said.

The district is now monitoring the area by remote camera and hopes to identify anyone trespassing or dumping, he said.

“Interestingly, if the dumper of the paint had been caught and convicted, it would have been justice, if

only poetic justice that they were on the crews that helped with cleanup of debris,” Cozad said.

URL: <http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/environment-and-nature/20160314/illegal-paint-dump-near-mill-creek-in-redlands-did-not-cause-harm-site-being-monitored>

© 2016 Redlands Daily Facts (<http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com>)

Election 2016: Rep. Aguilar asks Democrats to hold May debate in San Bernardino

By Beau Yarbrough, The Sun

Monday, March 14, 2016



SAN BERNARDINO >> The last Democratic presidential debate before [California's June 7 primary](#) might be held in San Bernardino.

Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-San Bernardino, sent a [letter to Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz](#), D-Florida, asking the committee to consider holding its May primary in San Bernardino.

“While San Bernardino recently gained national attention from witnessing the [deadliest terrorist attack on American soil since 9/11](#), this is also a community that embodies the struggles and concerns faced by people in all parts of the country,” Aguilar’s Feb. 24 letter reads in part. “San Bernardino is a city that serves as a reminder of the resiliency of the American people and our determination to remain united, even in our darkest of hours.”

California’s primary, and its 503 Democratic and 172 Republican delegates, in theory could have a massive impact on who will be at the top of the ticket for both parties in November. But historically, the state is an afterthought, with primary candidates having long since sewn up the delegates required to win the nomination before Golden State voters get their say.

This year [could be different](#), depending on how things shake out during Tuesday’s presidential primaries in Florida, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina and Ohio. Sen. Bernie Sanders, D-Vermont, [needs to have another great day](#), similar to his showing in Michigan last week, to keep former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton from pulling too far ahead for him to catch in subsequent primaries. Similarly, it’s do-or-die time for Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, and Gov. John Kasich, R-Ohio, whose future in the race is [in serious question if they don’t win their home states](#) — and a loss to Donald Trump in either could propel him that much closer to being the nominee of a party that isn’t at all sure it wants him.

Jack Pitney, a professor of American politics at Claremont McKenna College, says Aguilar’s request makes sense.

“Politicians like to have big events in their districts, especially when they involve major media companies spending a good deal of money,” Pitney wrote in an email Monday. “A debate is good for local restaurants and hotels.”

Whether the DNC goes along with the request, though, and what real impact it would have on the city, is up in the air.

“If there is a local venue that fits network needs, then there is a chance,” he wrote. “Clinton would want to use a San Bernardino locale to press her case for gun control. Sanders has a mixed record on that issue, however, so he might be wary.”

But presidential debate sites aren’t like Olympic host cities, with loving portraits of the locale presented to the broadcast audience.

“A debate might give some short-term attention to San Bernardino, especially since the candidates would have to discuss the terror attack,” Pitney wrote. “In general, however, viewers at home do not pay that much attention to the host city. For instance, the only way one could tell that the last GOP debate took place in Miami was the Rubio got loud applause for criticizing the Castro regime in Cuba.”

Representatives of Aguilar’s re-election committee and the Democratic National Committee did not respond to a request for comment Monday.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20160314/election-2016-rep-aguilar-asks-democrats-to-hold-may-debate-in-san-bernardino>

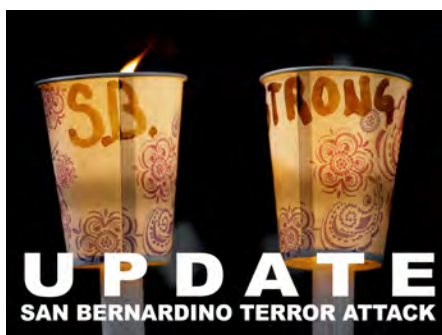
© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)



SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTING: Government can't stop terrorist encryption

By [ANDREA PETERSON](#)

2016-03-15 06:23:12



Even if the U.S. government prevails in its quest to compel Apple and other U.S. companies to give the authorities access to encrypted devices or messaging services when they have a warrant, such technology would still be widely available to terrorists and criminals, security analysts say.

That's because so many encrypted products are made by developers working in foreign countries or as part of open source projects, putting them outside the federal government's reach. For example, instant messaging service Telegram - which offers users encrypted "secret chats" - is headquartered in Germany while encrypted voice call and text-messaging service Silent Phone is based out of Switzerland. And Signal, a popular app for encrypted voice calls and text messaging, is open

source.

"Trying to put a mandate on encryption software is really pretty hopeless," said Matt Blaze, a computer science professor and cryptography researcher at the University of Pennsylvania.

President Barack Obama sided with law enforcement Friday in the policy debate over encryption, saying at the South by Southwest Festival that an "absolutist perspective" of privacy on smartphones doesn't account for the danger of letting digital security stand in the way investigators.

His comments come as the Justice Department is trying to force Apple to help the authorities unlock an iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino shooters. The New York Times reported that the Justice Department is also weighing how to approach a case where encryption used by Facebook-owned messaging app WhatsApp stymied a wiretap order.

In both situations, investigators ran into difficulties because the companies are using types of encryption where they don't store the digital keys needed to unlock data for authorities even when they have a warrant.

But any U.S. mandate on encryption would only affect software covered by U.S. law, said Blaze. "It's not going to prevent people from using open source software or foreign-made software, even in the United States," he explained.

SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTING: [Kamala Harris talks to cops about Apple vs. the FBI](#)

Last year, researchers at New America's Open Technology institute cataloged 16 different encrypted communications applications that are either developed outside of the U.S. or by open source projects.

The U.S. government can't really stop what developers do outside of its borders, so cracking down on domestic tech companies that offer strong encryption protections may just drive consumers to foreign competitors without the same restrictions, analysts said.

And open source projects tend to rely on volunteers based around the world. That means there often isn't one person the U.S. government could ask to get encrypted data. But even if the government did succeed in closing

down an open source project, the code would already be available online - so pretty much anyone could set up their own homebrew version of the application.

At best, the government's efforts to push U.S. companies away from the technology could slow its spread - at least among normal users.

More people are using strong forms of encryption now than ever, but mostly because tech companies have started making it an automatic feature, according to Matthew Green, a computer science professor at Johns Hopkins University. For instance, new iPhones encrypt information stored on the device by default when you set up a passcode. And WhatsApp users don't have to think about encrypting their messages - the protection is just there.

The government likely realizes it can't stop encryption from being available, but law enforcement officials probably hope to reduce the amount of information that automatically receives the protection, according to Green.

"They don't care if people use encryption, as long as it's not 95 percent of traffic," he said.

But forcing U.S. companies to shy away from strong forms of encryption would still leave the technology available to those who seek it out - including criminals and terrorists - according to Blaze.

And it would "likely do quite a bit of damage to everyday users because it would leave them more exposed to criminals and foreign intelligence services," he said.

© Copyright 2016 Freedom Communications. All Rights Reserved.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Site Map](#)

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Rev. Jesse Jackson weighs in on iPhone battle between FBI & Apple

By Joe Nelson, The Sun

Monday, March 14, 2016

The Rev. Jesse Jackson is the latest to weigh in on the legal battle between [Apple and the FBI](#) over access to a Redlands terrorist's encrypted iPhone, voicing support for Apple in a letter to a federal judge.

“This case cuts right to the heart of our right to live free from unwarranted government surveillance,” Jackson said in a letter dated March 10 and addressed to U.S. Magistrate Sheri Pym, who is presiding over the case in U.S. District Court in Riverside. “It is a matter of deep personal concern to me — given the past and present illegal and unwarranted spying and surveillance of civil rights organizations, much conducted under the guise of national security.”

Jackson's letter was sent on behalf of the [Rainbow/PUSH Coalition](#), the Chicago-based civil rights organization he founded.

“In these difficult times, the government, courts and private companies must stand up and uphold - however unpopular — our First Amendment rights, our right to privacy and basic individual freedoms guaranteed to us under the U.S. Constitution,” Jackson said in his letter.

Thom Mrozek, spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, declined to comment Monday.

On Tuesday, Apple will file its final response to the Department of Justice's request that the technology giant build special software that would allow the FBI to unlock the encrypted work-issued iPhone 5C used by San Bernardino mass shooting gunman Syed Rizwan Farook.

Pym [granted the government's request](#) on Feb. 16, which triggered an immediate response from Apple CEO Tim Cook, who vowed in an [open letter](#) to Apple customers to fight the order, which he called an “unprecedented step which threatens the security of our customers.”

Cook has vowed to take the fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court if need be.

Apple argues that building the software sought by the FBI will create a “master key” enabling hackers to unlock millions of other iPhones and breach the data security of its customers.

The government, however, maintains its request is a “narrow, targeted order that will produce a narrow, targeted piece of software capable of running on just one iPhone, in the security of Apple's corporate headquarters,” and that its request invades no one's privacy and raises no constitutional issues.

A hearing is scheduled for March 22 in Riverside, where Pym will hear arguments from both sides then decide whether to uphold her [initial order](#) or rescind it at Apple's request.

The legal battle spurred a global debate pitting the privacy rights of individuals against the interests of

law enforcement and national security.

Some of the world's biggest [technology companies](#) including Facebook, Twitter, Google and Microsoft have come out in support of Apple, while victims of the shooting and multiple law enforcement organizations including the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office and the state Sheriff's, Police Chief's and Peace Officers' associations are supporting the Department of Justice.

Farook, an environmental health specialist for San Bernardino County's Environmental Health Services Division, and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, fatally shot 14 people and wounded 22 others during an [attack](#) at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino on Dec. 2. Most of the victims of the attack were Farook's colleagues attending a training seminar at the center that morning.

Farook, 28, and Malik, 29, of Redlands, were killed in a shootout with police hours after the attack. The FBI said the two were radicalized Muslims who had been preparing for a mass casualty attack, and declared the mass shooting the deadliest terrorist strike on U.S. soil since 9/11.

In his letter to Pym, Jackson said that while other writers are weighing in on the intricacies of technology and privacy rights, he wanted to bring to the forefront the "impact and implications this case has on civil rights and our historic civil rights movement."

"The FBI infiltrated the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference), and used wire-tapping and personal threats against Dr. (Martin Luther) King — part of the relentless efforts by J. Edgar Hoover, with the support of the U.S. government agencies, to discredit Dr. King and the civil rights movement," Jackson said in the letter, adding that he personally has been subject to spying and surveillance by the government.

Lastly, Jackson noted in his letter, Edward Snowden's revelation that major tech and telecom companies collaborated with the National Security Agency in a global surveillance operation to obtain private information on millions of Americans' telephone and Internet activity.

"If the government prevails against Apple, it is my fear that it will accelerate — and make easier — government efforts to 'hack' into the legitimate activities of civil rights organizations and activists," Jackson said in his letter.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20160314/rev-jesse-jackson-weighs-in-on-iphone-battle-between-fbi-apple>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Former cyber czar says NSA could crack the San Bernadino shooter's phone

Richard Clarke tells NPR that the FBI just wants precedent and could have data already.

by [Sean Gallagher](#) - Mar 14, 2016 11:35am PDT



Another former national security official has spoken out forcefully against the FBI's quest to get Apple to write code to unlock the iPhone 5c used by San Bernardino mass shooter Syed Farook. Richard Clarke served as the National Security Council's chief counter-terrorism advisor to three presidents (George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush) before becoming George W. Bush's special advisor on cybersecurity. He [told National Public Radio's David Greene today](#) that "encryption and privacy are larger issues than fighting terrorism," taking issue with the FBI's attempts to compel Apple's assistance.

Clarke added that if he was still at the White House, he would have told [FBI Director James Comey](#) to "call Ft. Meade, and the NSA would have solved this problem...Every expert I know believes that NSA can crack this phone." But the FBI wasn't seeking that help, he said, because "they just want the precedent."

Clarke explained that the FBI was trying to get the courts to essentially compel speech from Apple with the All Writs Act. "This is a case where the federal government using a 1789 law trying to compel speech. What the FBI is trying to do is make code-writers at Apple, to make them write code that they do not want to write that will make their systems less secure," he said. "Compelling them to write code. And the courts have ruled in the past that computer code is speech."

As counter-terrorism chief for the NSC, Clarke noted, he faced barriers in what he could do. "I also operated within limits. Within the US government, we decided long ago that there are limits in what we're going to do in the war against terrorism." He noted the Obama administration's reversal on the prior administration's policy on torture and compared torture to the violation of civil liberties that the FBI's efforts could set precedent for. "To make the FBI's job easier, we could, at the far extreme, put ankle bracelets on everybody so that we know where everybody was all the time. That's a ridiculous example, of course, but encryption and privacy are larger issues than finding terrorism."

Clarke noted that Comey and the Justice Department were not getting support in their case from the defense and intelligence communities. "The Justice Department and the FBI are on their own here," he said. "The FBI director [Comey] is exaggerating the need for this, and the Attorney General [Loretta Lynch] is letting him get away with it."



SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTING: Trump jokes — awkwardly — about Todd Palin and terror attack

By [ASHLEY PARKER](#)

2016-03-14 15:39:55



The joke was, it seemed, a little awkward.

Sarah Palin, the 2008 Republican vice-presidential nominee, was scheduled to campaign on Donald Trump's behalf Monday in Florida, but she had canceled to return to Alaska after her husband, Todd, was hospitalized in a snow machine accident.

But Palin, the former governor of Alaska, still managed to appear with Trump at his event, and in response to a question from the audience about the Second Amendment, Trump invoked both her and her husband.

Referring to the terrorist attacks of San Bernardino, Trump said the situation might have unfolded differently had others in the room been armed.

"If Todd Palin were in that room, frankly, if Sarah Palin were in the room — forget about Todd, especially now," Trump said, seeming to refer to Palin's hospitalization.

"If Sarah Palin were in that room, if somebody were in that room that had a gun of some kind, attached to the hip, attached to the ankle, with bullets that could fly in the opposite direction, you wouldn't have this," Trump concluded.

There seemed to be no hard feelings, with Trump thanking Palin at the end of his speech and telling her to "get home to that incredible husband."

And Palin did her part to excite the crowd when she spoke before the New York businessman. She referred to the rash of protests that have increasingly started to disrupt Trump's events recently, with one ending in violence and another leading him to shut down a rally in Chicago on Friday evening.

"What we don't have time for is all that petty, punk-(expletive) little thuggery stuff that's been going on with these quote unquote protesters, who are doing nothing but wasting your time and trying to take away your First Amendment rights, your rights to assemble peacefully," Palin said.

Then, she turned her attention to another favorite target of Trump — reporters.

"And the media being on the thug side, what the heck are you guys thinking, media?" she asked. "It doesn't make sense."

© Copyright 2016 Freedom Communications. All Rights Reserved.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Site Map](#)



SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTING: Kamala Harris talks to top cops about Apple vs. the FBI

By [RICHARD K. DeATLEY](#)

2016-03-14 14:01:04



California Attorney General Kamala Harris told a gathering of California police chiefs, “let’s step back for a moment,” in considering public safety and privacy issues in the current Apple-FBI encryption case playing out in federal court.

Speaking Monday, March 14 at the California Police Chiefs Association annual symposium in Ontario, Harris warned against making a bright-line choice on the issue.

“I suggest we cannot afford to accept a false choice on this – the false choice being, ‘You’re either in favor of Apple or you’re in favor of the FBI. You’re either in favor of just getting rid of encryption, or locking everything

down so law enforcement can’t have access.”

Harris told the law enforcement gathering, “We have got to be at the table, helping to direct the conversation to resolution.”

She said while there are concerns about getting access to smart phones that may contain information sought by law enforcement, criminal hacking of data is also a growing problem.

“Let’s think about it from this perspective. Part of the work we do every day is dealing with issues like hackers ... Increasingly, trans-national criminal organizations are engaged in hacking information,” she said.

“We have had incredible data breaches in California, one of the most publicized being Sony,” she said, referring to phishing attack that allowed hackers into Sony Pictures Entertainment’s corporate email files in the fall of 2014.

The emails, detailing stars’ salaries and corporate chiefs’ private comments about various talent and President Barack Obama, were released publicly

But Harris said hackers have also breached less-famous targets such as dental and medical offices and retail stores, obtaining victims’ personal information and Social Security numbers

“Encryption is something we actually have been advocating. We have been saying anyone who possesses individual and personal information about other people has a responsibility for keeping it safe.”

Harris said her office has been working with local law enforcement to teach small and medium businesses about the value of encryption to protect records.

The FBI in the San Bernardino terrorism case has said the software it wants Apple to create will only affect the one iPhone used by one of the terrorists in the Dec. 2 shooting that killed 14 and wounded 22.

The agency wants to get around the built-in protections on the iPhone 5c so investigators can run a series of possible pass codes to enter the device and look at its data. Ten successive failed pass code attempts will permanently lock down the data.

Apple officials have said even the creation of such hacking-aid software for the San Bernardino County-issued iPhone used by health inspector Syed Rizwan Farook will endanger the data protection of hundreds of millions of devices.

A hearing on Apple's motion to overturn the order is set for March 22 in Riverside federal court.

Farook and wife Tashfeen Malik opened fire on a gathering of Farook's co-workers in the attack. The Redlands couple died a few hours later in a shootout with police.

Harris said in her talk Monday that authorities may want to consider seeking variations on access for the most serious kinds of crimes, such as terrorism, murder and child molestation, Harris said.

Should access in such cases go so far as to permit law enforcement to turn a phone into a listening device or a remote camera, she asked the audience.

"We are going to have to think about parameters in terms of what we want to be the standard for these private companies ... around what we have access to," she said.

"Part of what we are looking at right now is a moment in time where the decisions that we make, and particularly what California law enforcement makes, on this issue of what we are going to do about technology and the bounds between safety and privacy – I think what we do now in any slight variation is going to have exponential impact for the next couple of decades," she said

"These are the things to think about and also be prepared for the push back for the legitimate point that this is going to be a slippery slope ... I would encourage us to continue talking about this" she said.

The California Police Chiefs Association included a memorial ceremony for fallen officers as part of Monday's events. The symposium continues through Thursday.

Contact the writer: rdeatley@pe.com or 951-368-9573



SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTING: Bomb-sniffing K-9 who helped on Dec. 2 dies

By [BRIAN ROKOS](#)

2016-03-11 18:12:04



A Marine Corps explosives-detecting K-9 dog that assisted during the Dec. 2 terrorist attack in San Bernardino has died.

[Bady died Feb. 14 from an illness](#), the Marines announced on its website. Bady had been assigned to Cpl. Gilberto Navarrete at the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow.

In addition to providing patrol and detection services for the base, Navarrete and Bady also provided detection support for the Secret Service and State Department for Pope Francis during his visit to New York City in September and President Barack Obama during a visit to San Jose in February.

The team received a meritorious conduct medal for their work in San Bernardino, where 14 people were killed and 22 others were wounded.

© Copyright 2016 Freedom Communications. All Rights Reserved.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Site Map](#)